



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release

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DNR AWARDS \$105,000 IN GRANTS TO GROUPS TO REDUCE STORM WATER RUNOFF, IMPROVE WATER QUALITY

MEDIA CONTACT: Bill Ehm at (515) 281-4701 or Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131

DES MOINES — The DNR is helping 15 organizations across the state improve urban lakes and streams by awarding more than \$105,000 in grants.

The grants, awarded over the past two weeks, will help install conservation practices that reduce the amount of storm water runoff reaching streams and lakes. Conservation practices, such as bioswales, rain gardens and permeable pavement, help slow and filter rain water as it runs off urban surfaces. As it runs across lawns and pavement, storm water can pick up pollutants like soil, fertilizers, pet waste and oil. That storm water washes into storm sewers, which dump the water into a local stream or lake without any treatment. Most urban conservation practices help storm water soak directly into the ground rather than runoff into storm sewers.

“Runoff from urban sources is a large source of pollution in Iowa,” said Bill Ehm, the DNR’s water policy coordinator. “We’re excited to work through these grants with local communities, businesses, schools and groups to improve Iowa’s streams and lakes.”

The DNR selected grant applications based on innovative conservation practices and education efforts. Once the practices are installed, they will be accessible to the public.

The following groups, listed by county, received grants:

Black Hawk County

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board received \$7,450 to help install a rain garden and bio-retention cell to manage runoff from the parking lot at Hartman Reserve Nature Center in the Cedar Falls – Waterloo area.

Dubuque County

The Dubuque County Conservation Board received \$7,500 to help install a pervious parking area and a permeable grass paver walkway to reduce storm water runoff entering Catfish Creek from the Swiss Valley Nature Center near Peosta.

Johnson County

The City of Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center will use a \$7,500 grant to help install bioswales, native vegetation and pervious paving at its new east-side recycling center and environmental education center.

As part of its renovation of Mushroom Park, the City of Solon will replace the park's current parking lot with a porous paving parking lot and crosswalk with the help of a \$7,500 grant.

Marion County

Central College, of Pella, plans to develop an eco-friendly plaza on the campus that will restore landscaping and install storm water conservation practices. The \$7,496 grant will help install permeable concrete block pavement, meadow and natural plants.

Mills County

The Malvern Public Library Trustees will use a \$7,360 grant to help install storm water practices at the library, including native landscaping, soil quality restoration, rain gardens, a grass channel and dry swale.

The Mills County Secondary Road Department, with the assistance of a \$7,500 grant, plans on resurfacing a gravel parking lot with pervious concrete and installing a rain garden at its Glenwood facility to reduce storm water runoff reaching Keg Creek.

Polk County

The City of Altoona will demonstrate native turf grass options for residential homes at its fire station and will also redesign a storm water detention basin in the Falcon Ridge housing development with help from a \$6,232 grant.

Luther Care Services, of Des Moines, will install a rain garden to reduce storm water runoff from its parking lot with the assistance from a \$4,125 grant.

Regency Land Development Services, of West Des Moines, will create two dry swales within the parkway of the new Deer Creek housing development in Ankeny with the help

of a \$7,444.75 grant. Regency will dedicate the swales to the City of Ankeny upon acceptance of the associated final plats in the development.

Pottawattamie County

Golden Hills Resource Conservation and Development, of Oakland, will use a \$7,500 grant to host seminars and a conference on low impact development, as well as create educational pieces on low impact development for local officials, realtors, developers, engineers, landscape architects and contractors in the Loess Hills.

Scott County

The City of Bettendorf Public Works Department will create a series of conservation practices to treat runoff from the city-owned Palmer Hills Golf Course with the help of a \$7,500 grant. The practices will include infiltration trenches, rain gardens and pervious pavement.

Story County

Iowa State University (ISU), of Ames, plans to expand an existing storm water project with a \$5,465 grant. ISU will construct storm water management gardens in a residential area to reduce storm water runoff into College Creek.

Prairie Rivers of Iowa Resource Conservation and Development, of Ames, plans to install rain gardens in Ada Hayden Heritage Park and at the Ames Water Treatment Plant with the help of a \$7,500 grant to encourage local water conservation and water quality efforts.

Union County

Creston Livestock Auction, Inc. plans to construct a bioretention storm water control system with the help of a \$7,500 grant to improve storm water runoff entering Hurley Creek.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided funding for the DNR grants.

Writer: Jessie Brown

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MANURE RUNOFF TO BLAME IN LOUISA COUNTY FISH KILL

MEDIA CONTACT: Don Kline at 319-694-2430 or Josh Sobaski at 319-653-2135

COLUMBUS CITY – DNR fisheries biologists have completed a count of fish killed near Columbus City June 18 in a small creek that flows into Monkey Run Creek.

The DNR estimated 3,399 fish were killed along a 1.83 mile-long stretch of stream starting west of Columbus City and ending where the creek flowed into Monkey Run Creek on the north side of Columbus Junction.

Most of the fish killed were minnows, darters and sunfish. Eighty-one catfish were also reported dead.

“These smaller streams that are tributaries to larger streams are a vital part of our aquatic ecosystem,” DNR Biologist Don Kline said. “Several species of fish use them for spawning and nursery sites that contribute to the larger streams.”

The manure entered the unnamed creek from a discontinued pig confinement operation owned by Randy Wood of nearby Columbus Junction. A manure pit underneath a demolished confinement building was still holding manure, and the pressure from the fill dirt caused the manure to discharge from the storage structure and flow into the tributary.

Restitution for the dead fish is estimated at \$7,086.90. The cost of the fisheries investigation was \$496.60. The DNR will seek to recover both amounts from Wood.

Wood has cleaned up the areas leading to the stream and has installed two earthen terraces to prevent any further leakage to the stream, said Josh Sobaski, a DNR environmental specialist who participated in the original investigation. The DNR will continue to monitor the situation until clean-up is completed.

State law requires manure from discontinued confinement operations to be removed and land applied within six months. Manure spills should be reported to the DNR within six hours of when they occur or are discovered. Reports of spills may be directed towards the 24-hour emergency spill line at (515) 281-8694.

Writer: Holly Williams

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CITIZENS ASKED TO SHARE CONCERNS AT ILLEGAL DUMPING FORUMS

MEDIA CONTACT: Tom Anderson at (515) 281-8623 or tom.anderson@dnr.state.ia.us

DES MOINES – The DNR is hosting three forums across Iowa to gather input from citizens, local governments and businesses about how illegal dumping and tire piles have impacted their communities. The forum will also focus on recommendations for policies and practices to prevent illegal dumping and tire stockpiles. This information will help the department craft a new statewide effort to fight these problems.

The public is invited to attend any of the forums. The first will be held in Des Moines July 17 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Wallace State Office Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 502 E 9th St. The second will be held the evening of July 17 in Cedar Rapids at the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library at 30 16th Avenue SW from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The third forum will be broadcast July 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. over the Iowa Communications Network from an origination site in Atlantic, Iowa. Citizens can participate at the Atlantic Middle School, Room 109, 1100 Linn St, Atlantic, or attend one of six other meeting sites: Albia High School, Room 302, 503 B Avenue East, Albia; Great River Area Education Agency, 3601 West Avenue, Burlington; DMACC – Carroll Campus, Room 144, 906 North Grant Road, Carroll; Eastern Iowa Community College, Room 300, Kahl Educational Center, 326 West 3rd Street, Davenport; University of Dubuque, Jackaline Baldwin Dunlap Technology Center Room T201, 2000 University Avenue, Dubuque; or North Iowa Area Community College, Activity Center Room 106, 500 College Drive, Mason City.

For more than a decade the DNR has partnered with local governments and like-minded organizations to curb this blight on property and communities, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on cleanup and enforcement activities. Surveys and focus groups reveal that indifference and the unlikelihood of getting caught are the chief reasons people illegally dump tires, appliances, construction and demolition waste, and even hazardous chemicals. Reporting, enforcement, and publicized convictions are vital to curbing illegal dumping or stockpiling of tires.

“Iowa governments are faced with a lack of adequate funding for a concerted coordinated effort to prevent and clean up illegal dumping and tire stockpiles.” said Jeff Geerts, program planner for the Environmental Services Division of the DNR. “Yet illegal dumping has serious effects on our quality of life. We need everyone aware of the problem and willing to help solve it. Attending these forums, telling their stories, and helping us with planning will build commitment to solutions.”

For more information about remedying illegal dumping in Iowa, go to www.iowadnr.gov/waste/sw/illdump.html.

Writer: Mindy Kralicek